

While I have no problem, per se, with the government monitoring the Internet as a whole (say, with conveniently placed machines scanning the network), I do have a major problem with the government building back doors into related equipment. Tapping a phone line is completely different from tapping someone's VPN, ssh session, or someone's PC. If a backdoor is installed, that means someone WILL hack into it. Its not a matter of IF, its a matter of WHEN and once one device is hacked, the information on how to hack it will spread on the Internet like wildfire and soon ALL backdoors will be exploited. Not only that, but the government already has the resources to break into anyone's PC they please via physical access.

Please don't mandate backdoors into anything on the Internet.

Another thing to worry about is that it stifles innovation. If a small software company wanted to rapidly create and deploy a newer, more secure form of communication on the Internet, they'd have to get govennmet approval before putting it into action.